

## SECRETS OF AMALGAMATED.

## ASSOCIATION'S PURPOSES AND SMALL MEMBERSHIP SHOWN.

**Revealed in the Association's Journal**

—Chief Object in Striking Was to Force the Steel Trust to Drive Non-Union Men, Who Otherwise Wouldn't Join, Into the Organization—Less Than 16,000 Members in It and the Figures Growing Smaller—Hoped to Bring the Trust to Term, Through Stock Operations—Shaffer's Soliloquy for Non-Union Men—Views on Arbitration.

PITTSBURG, Aug. 23.—The journal of the annual meeting of the Amalgamated Association held at Milwaukee from May 21 to June 7 last has been made public. It shows two things decisively. One is that having failed to induce non-union men to join the association the strike was brought on to get the Steel Corporation to force these men into the organization. The other fact of unusual importance is that the Amalgamated Association's membership, which is revealed, numbers less than 16,000 and that probably not more than 8,000 of these are on strike. The treasury fund amounts to less than \$75,000.

When it entered into the present warfare with the Steel Corporation the association had 160 active subordinate lodges with a total of 13,802 members and a balance in the treasury of \$74,808. This significant exhibit is made on page 6,000 of the journal in a "Comparative Table of the Numerical and Financial Growth and the Decline of the Association Since Its Institution, Aug. 4, 1876, Running by Years from Convention to Convention." The table shows that the organization was weaker in numbers for the year ending in May last than it was the year before. In the twelve months between the Indianapolis convention and the recent convention at Milwaukee, the Amalgamated lost ground. It had twenty-one lodges less and showed a total loss of membership of 145. Gradually the union had been recuperating from the disastrous Homestead strike in 1892 until May, 1900. Then it began again to decline.

But these are not the only figures of interest in the statistical table referred to. According to careful estimates, there are 8,500 members of the Amalgamated employed in the plants of the Republic Iron and Steel Company, and 1,000 more are employed in independent plants, leaving only 9,300 members of the union employed in the mills of the Steel Corporation before the strike. The failure of hundreds of these to come out reduces to less than 9,000 certainly, and probably to somewhere near 8,000, the number of actual strikers against the Steel Corporation.

It is astonishing to note what a small proportion of the skilled workmen in the corporation's mills the Amalgamated men formed, and what a ridiculously small proportion they bore to the whole number eligible to membership in the Amalgamated.

The strike was begun upon a demand made by Shaffer that the American Sheet Company, American Tin Plate Company and American Steel Hoop Company sign the Amalgamated scale for all mills, union and non-union. Estimates made from statistics in the directory of the American Iron & Steel Association, published by James Swank, show that there are at least 30,000 skilled workmen employed in the plants of these three companies, while 50,000 more are employed in independent plants, with 50,000 non-union laborers who might become members at the discretion of the local lodges. That is, at the time of the strike was declared, there were in the companies of the United States Steel Corporation 9,300 union men and approximately 20,000 non-union men among the skilled workmen, with 50,000 non-union laborers who might become members of the Amalgamated Association, besides 50,000 laborers who might become members at the discretion of the local lodges. That is, at the time of the strike was declared, there were in the companies of the United States Steel Corporation 9,300 union men and approximately 20,000 non-union men among the skilled workmen, with 50,000 non-union laborers who might become members of the Amalgamated Association, besides 50,000 laborers who might become members at the discretion of the local lodges.

It must be remembered that the count of union men given includes those employed in the Federal Steel, National Steel and National Tube mills, making up all the mills in these mills the total of non-union skilled workmen would be swelled to 40,000, probably, and of non-union laborers to 100,000, all "eligible" to membership in the Amalgamated. Besides, there are employed by the Carnegie Company, probably 10,000 non-union skilled workmen as there were members of the Amalgamated who, until a few weeks ago, when they were duped by Shaffer, had good jobs in the six other big constituents of the corporation.

The figures of that indicates this follows. It has a certain interest, apart from its bearing on this strike, in the information it furnishes about the Homestead strike in 1892. The amount of money spent by the Amalgamated in that affair has never been made public.

## STEEL UNION'S VARYING STRENGTH.

Year	Name	Total	Total Balance
1876	Membership	1,000	\$1,000
1877	111	4,004	3,904
1878	104	5,369	12,423
1879	104	5,369	1,564
1880	104	10,000	4,636
1881	104	10,000	27,150
1882	104	10,000	22,905
1883	197	16,059	24,826
1884	197	16,059	18,042
1885	197	16,059	18,791
1886	197	8,242	17,958
1887	197	8,762	18,042
1888	197	8,762	18,791
1889	172	11,475	42,523
1890	172	11,475	11,774
1891	172	11,475	24,208
1892	172	11,475	7,741
1893	172	20,781	10,919
1894	172	24,965	23,680
1895	172	24,965	146,541
1896	172	24,965	146,541
1897	172	24,965	146,541
1898	172	13,613	31,347
1899	172	13,613	178,741
1900	172	10,000	42,404
1901	172	10,000	15,542
1902	172	10,000	15,542
1903	172	11,000	32,781
1904	172	11,000	12,525
1905	172	11,000	23,735
1906	172	11,000	24,424
1907	145	10,500	24,424
1908	145	10,500	8,830
1909	145	11,050	22,292
1910	145	11,050	24,424
1911	145	11,050	19,653
1912	145	11,050	44,760

Figures are very dull as compared with some of the reading matter contained in the journal. Shaffer's report to the convention as President of the Amalgamated, for example, thus he proceeds:

"Brethren, the report you now present in obedience to the rules and practices of our organization is a history of the most remarkable and memorable year since we began our existence. The large trusts of last year have consolidated, and by their coalition have forced the greater number of trusts in the world to give over."

Their stocks have been placed in the hands of jobbers and untrustworthy speculators, whose manipulations are endangering the financial integrity of the nation and rendering it hazardous for legitimate business in the various branches of the manufacturing industries. Your officers have viewed these changes with alarm, and at intervals have sounded notes of warning to our general membership."

This paragraph is to be found on page 600 of the report.

One does not have to go far along in Shaffer's report before the first avowal of a determination to force the hated "trust" to unionize mills appears. It is made in Shaffer's review of the wage scale conference with the American Sheet Steel Company last year. Page 600 of the journal quotes Shaffer as follows:

"The chief object aimed at was the signing of a scale for all mills. Our first attempt in this direction was met by the statement that was made that the scale was to be signed and could not even be considered. Their position was rendered irreconcileable by the disparity between the union and non-union mills. This is made evident by the following:

"Union Mills, Scranton, Cambridge, Pittston, Conshohocken, Canton, Donisthorpe, Standard, New Philadelphia, Canal Dover, Midland, Sharon, Hammond, Carnegie, Beaverdale, Hyde Park, Salisburg, Falcon

Luechburg, Struthers, Alexandria; total stand of rolls, 100. Non-union Mills—Chester, Wellsville, McKeesport, Scottsdale, Luechburg, Apollo, Vandergrift; total stand of rolls, 65.

"Union Mills Idle—Scottsdale, Coatesville, Hammond, Sharon, Falcon, Hyde Park, Salisburg, Scranton; total stand of rolls, 100.

"These alarming figures were in themselves sufficient to make the work difficult for our committee, but two other facts placed the situation beyond our control:

"First, the American Sheet Steel Company had refused to sign to the scale for non-union plants.

"Second—The apathy of many union sheet workers.

"Brethren of the sheet steel trade, we shall obtain no better results and surroundings than without a bitter contest, and we can secure the signing of the scale for all mills only by making sacrifices."

In an appended circular Shaffer says: "Nearly one-half the workers employed by the American Sheet Steel Company are members of the A. F. of L." Shaffer then tells of a controversy he had with the Sheet Steel company this spring over the reinstatement of men discharged for making trouble in the mills in which he had organized a general strike. He goes on to say things which make it easy to understand why he thought he could raid the stock market this summer and bring the steel corporation to its knees. His purpose to do so is apparent in such statements as: "There is an account of the first trouble the Amalgamated Association has had with the greatest trust. The victory is with us, but not because of our strength. We won through their weakness and the United States Steel Company is to-day but a shadow of bodies without organic form, without rules or government, without systematic operating plans." The difference between their actual possessions and characterized capitalization is backed by no value in name or stock, and inferred from the value through purchase of tracts of land to be used for the steel works of the future.

"There is but one way of salvation for the A. F. L. and that is the pathway lighted up by the spirit of true unionism. Thus, brethren, shall we prevail? Thus shall we become strong again, and when we have become strong again, then will I hope to see the day when I can bequeath my inheritance to the labor movement."

"Foolish as these bargains are, we know that we must expend money for them which carries a strike with it. This is why we won. The declaration of our intention to strike affected the sale of their shares to the amount of \$1,000,000 in two days in Wall Street, and it inferred that the value of their stock was \$1,000,000.

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